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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 MC-02 EB-11 DLOS-06 COA-02 EUR-25

DRC-01 /199 W
---------- 040168
P R 211350Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5141
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCLANT NORVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 123

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR BF US
SUBJ: BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: NASSAU 007; STATE 9068

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF STATE REFTEL, AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD EXTENSIVE AND IN-DEPTH CONVERSATIONS WITH MINEXTAFF PERM SECRETARY ORIS RUSSELL, AND THROUGH HIM, HAVE OBTAINED READING ON FONMIN ADDERLEY'S REACTION TO THE TEXT THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED FOR A NOTE TO BE SENT TO THE BAHAMIANS ON THE QUESTION OF A NEW DATE FOR REACHING DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THESE CONVERSATIONS, THE EMBASSY HAS ELICITED STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF BAHAMIAN BEWILDERMENT AS TO WHY THE US IS RAISING AN ISSUE WHICH THE BAHAMIANS NEITHER INTENDED NOR RAISED AND WHICH, FOR THEIR PART, THEY DO NOT READ IN THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR NOTE TO US. IN ADDITION TO BEWILDERMENT, THE MINISTER HIMSELF IS ANGERED AND IRRITA-
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TED FIRST OVER THE DELAY IN A REPLY TO A NOTE HE CONSIDERS

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VERY SIMPLE IN LANGUAGE AND INTENT AND SECOND OVER EVIDENCE
OF US SUSPICIONS ABOUT WHAT THE NOTE MEANS.

3. OUR EXPLORATORY CONVERSATIONS HAVE INCLUDED AN EFFORT TO
DRAFT SEVERAL FORMULATIONS OF LANGUAGE WHICH MEETS THE TARGET
DATE VERSUS TERMINATION DATE PROBLEM ON US SIDE AS WELL AS
SENSITIVITIES ON BAHAMIAN SIDE. THIS EFFORT HAS FAILED BE-
CAUSE THE BAHAMIANS SAY THEY UNDERSTAND THE DISTINCTION WE
MAKE, MAKE IT THEMSELVES, DO NOT BELIEVE THEY HAVE DONE ANY-
THING TO CONFUSE THE TWO, AND ARE CONTINUING TO TALK SOLELY
IN TERMS OF A TARGET DATE.

4. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT WE ACT
ON THE EVIDENCE THAT ADDERLEY'S DEC 31 NOTE IS NOT REPEAT
NOT AN ATTEMPT TO IMPLY THAT DEC 31 WAS A CARRY-OVER AGREE-
MENT DEADLINE NOW TO BE SUBSTITUTED BY JUNE 30, 1974. INSTEAD,
AND ACTING UPON OUR INFORMATION THAT THE MINISTER SUGGESTS
THAT WE EITHER ACCEPT THE NEW TARGET DATE OR REJECT IT, WE
PROPOSE THAT OUR NOTE SIMPLY CONSIST OF THE COMPLIMENTARY
OPENING IN THE TEXT PROPOSED IN NASSAU 7, AND THE FIRST SEN-
TENCE ONLY OF THE TEXT GIVEN IN PARAGRAPH TWO OF STATE 9068.

5. THE AMBASSADOR IS AT PRESENT OUT OF TOWN BUT LEFT IN-
STRUCTIONS THAT THE EMBASSY RECORD HIS VIEW THAT IF SUBSTANCE
OF PROPOSAL OUTLINED PARAGRAPH FOUR ABOVE IS TO BE OVERTURNED,
THE DECISION TO DO SO BE REVIEWED AND MADE AT AN APPROPRIATELY
HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL IN THE DEPARTMENT. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT
IF WE PERSIST IN PURSUING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE BAHAM-
IANS KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND THE ASSUMPTION THAT THEY
WERE ATTEMPTING TO DO MORE THAN THEY SAY THEY WERE WE WILL
HAVE A MINI-CRISIS ON A MINOR ISSUE WHICH COULD VERY WELL
AFFECT OTHER ELEMENTS OR OUR RELATIONS HERE AS WELL AS THE
NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES.
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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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